(c) the number of new bank-branches proposed to be set up in private sector in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) With a view to promoting rural savings as well as providing credit for viable economic activities in local areas, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have decided to allow establishment of new local area banks in the private sector.

(b) Guidelines relating to the setting up of local areas banks were issued by the RBI on August 24, 1996 and hence the receipt of applications in accordance with RBI's guidelines is expected to take some time. According to RBI some persons have expressed interest.

(c) RBI has not received any proposals for setting up of private banks in the rural areas in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. However, private sector banks, which were established in pursuance of guidelines issued by the RBI on 22.01.93, have proposed to open branches in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh as detailed below:

Maharashtra	—	26
Gujarat	—	7
Orissa	—	1
Madhya Pradesh	—	4

None of these proposals are for opening branches in rural centres.

Aids and Leprosy Eradication Centres

*452. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of AIDS Centres and leprosy eradication centres in operation in different parts of the country particularly in Punjab, district-wise details thereof;

(b) the amount of financial assistance sanctioned and released to each of these centres by Government during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any free treatment is being given by these centres to the patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) There are no recognised AIDS centres in the country.

Annexure indicating the number of Leprosy centres in different States/UTs and in districts of Punjab are placed on the table of the House. *[See Appendix 178, Annexure No. 69 and 70]*

(b) Cases of AIDS are attended to in major hospitals along with other patients. As such no separate allocation/assistance is being provided for the AIDS cases. However, details of funds released to States/UTs for the various activities under National AIDS Control programme during the last three years are placed on the table of the house *[See Appendix 178, Annexure No. 71]*

Financial assistance is given to the States/UTs on quarterly basis so far as Leprosy Eradication Centres are concerned. Further, centre-wise allocation is done by the State Governments. Details of the amount sanctioned and released to various States/UTs during the last three years are placed on the table of the House. *[See Appendix 178, Annexure no. 72]*

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Free medical care is given to all the AIDS patients like other patients admitted in the hospitals.

Similarly, free treatment is provided to leprosy patients in all the districts of the country including districts of Punjab State.

Protest by Religious Leaders over Obscenity in Print/Audio/Visual Media

*453. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the 'Pioneer', dated 15th July, 1996 captioned "Religious leaders up in arms against obscenity";

(b) if so, whether the representatives of different sects and religions have drawn Government's attention to curb obscene and indecent transmission on Doordarshan and Akashwani and publication in newspapers and magazines that cause harm to the culture and values of the country;

(c) if so, whether Government have appointed any study group in this regard and asked it to submit its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Villages Suffering from Silicosis in Andhra Pradesh

*455. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether citizens suffering from silicosis are dying in a tribal village in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to save the poor villagers suffering from silicosis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) As per information received from the Health authorities of Government of Andhra Pradesh, there are quarries between Vijayawada and Kanchikacherla. No reports of deaths due to Silicosis or even cases of Silicosis have been received from the Medical Officers of Primary Health Centres Ibrahimpatnam (near Vijayawada) and Kanchikacherla.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The quarry workers have been advised through the field staff of the Primary Health Centres Ibrahimpatnam and Kanchikacherla to use masks or any other hygienic cloth to avoid inhalation of dust so that the Silicosis can be prevented. The workers are also advised to report immediatly to the nearest Primary Health Centre if any one is suffering from chest symptoms like breathlessness, chronic irritating cough etc. so that immediate remedial steps could be taken.

The provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and the Factory Act 1948 are also applicable to the management of the industry who are reponsible for taking precautions to protect the workers.

Partial Legal Aid Scheme

*456. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) which are the States who have adopted the Partial Legal Aid Scheme; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) the partial legal aid scheme has so far been adopted by the States of Haryana, Punjab and National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) The partial legal aid scheme which is intended for the benefit of Middle Income Group is optional and is on self-financing basis. It is applicable for cases pending or intended to be filed in the High Courts and Supreme Court The Maximum income ceiling prescribed for eligibility under the scheme by the following States is shown against each:—

1.	Haryana	—	1,00,000/-
2.	Punjab	—	75,000/-
3.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	—	75,000/-
4.	Supreme Court (Middle Income Group) Legal Aid Committee	—	1,20,000/-